

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A ballast device for a discharge lamp comprising; ;
having
a DC voltage supply stage; ;
semiconductor switches ~~which are being~~ switched at a radiofrequency clock frequency ~~for the purpose of changing the~~ so as to change the current direction through the discharge lamp; ;
a starting transformer; ~~to which the DC voltage of the DC voltage supply stage can be supplied via~~
a series capacitor through which a DC voltage of said DC voltage supply stage is supplied to the starting transformer, and
a ballast inductance ~~which is~~ connected to an electrode of the discharge lamp which is; ; not connected to the starting transformer; ~~of the discharge lamp~~,
characterized in that, between a wherein
there is a first connecting point between the series capacitor and the starting transformer, ~~on the one hand~~, and a
there is a second connecting point between the discharge lamp and the ballast inductance, ~~on the other hand~~
a capacitor is connected in series with a switch between the first and second connecting points, ~~and in that the said~~ capacitor forms, ~~with the ballast inductance~~, a series resonant circuit with the ballast inductance, and said series resonant circuit ~~which~~ is tuned to a higher harmonic of the clock frequency.
2. (Currently amended) A ballast device as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the series resonant circuit is tuned to the third to sixth harmonic of the clock frequency.
3. (Currently amended) The ballast device as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a resistor is connected in parallel with the capacitor.